

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



ANGELA McLEAN
LT. GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 2, 2015

CONTACTS

Mike Wessler, Deputy Communications Director, Governor's Office, 444-9725
Ronja Abel, Communications Director, Department of Commerce, 437-2359

Bullock Announces Grant to City of Havre to Upgrade Wastewater Infrastructure

HELENA – Governor Steve Bullock and Montana Department of Commerce Director Meg O'Leary announced a grant of \$500,000 to the City of Havre to rehabilitate and expand the city's wastewater system. The funds are being made available to the City of Havre through the Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP).

"We cannot build a strong and resilient Montana economy without strong and resilient public infrastructure," said Gov. Bullock. "This grant will help the City of Havre make critical improvements to its wastewater infrastructure and ensure the safety and reliability of the treatment system for future generations."

The City of Havre will use the TSEP grant, along with other state and federal grants and loans, to rehabilitate and expand the wastewater treatment plant, install UV disinfection, and complete an inflow and infiltration study. The project addresses the current inability to meet permit requirements for ammonia, E Coli and chlorine residuals, and outdated equipment. The improvements will allow the City to be able to meet new standards and have processes in place that comply with current regulations to protect the health and safety of its residents.

"Montana is a place that we are all proud to live, work, and play," said Director Meg O'Leary. "We also want others to be able to come here and live, establish businesses, and spend their tourism dollars in our state. We can't have any of that without keeping our state's infrastructure on pace with our growing economy."

"We are grateful to receive these funds from the State of Montana and appreciate their continued support of critical infrastructure investments in our communities," said Mayor Tim Solomon. "If it wasn't for this grant, we wouldn't be able to make these necessary improvements."

This legislative session, Governor Bullock has proposed an infrastructure plan (House Bill 5), known as the Build Montana Act, that will invest over \$380 million in infrastructure and capital improvements, building Montana's schools, providing clean drinking water, maintaining buildings, and repairing public infrastructure. The Governor is asking the Legislature to fund infrastructure improvements for an additional 51 infrastructure projects.

The TSEP program is administered by the Community Development Division at the Montana Department of Commerce. The program is funded by interest earnings on the Coal Tax Severance Fund to help local governments, tribal governments, and local water and sewer districts complete public infrastructure improvements, creating jobs and protecting the health and safety of Montana residents.

For more information about the TSEP program, contact Community Development Division staff at (406) 841-2770 or e-mail DOCTSEP@mt.gov.

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